



WEEKLY REPORT

ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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For the week ending Friday, August 20, 2004

Welcome to the ASRS Weekly Report. This report provides a briefing of news and notices important to member employers and your employees. Please direct comments or email address updates to weeklyreport@asrs.state.az.us or phone (602) 308-5107.

***** Please distribute or make this report available to your employees. *****

ASRS News

New Getting Ready for Retirement handbook now on-line!

A new handbook filled with information valuable to members contemplating retirement is now available on the ASRS website.

Getting Ready for Retirement will guide members through the process and contains information such topics as how benefits are calculated, retirement annuity options, service purchase, health insurance and returning to work after retirement.

The handbook can be accessed on the web and is also provided when members sign up for ASRS Group Meetings, which are conducted frequently by our Member Services division? To learn more about Group Meetings, aimed at members contemplating retirement within a year, click on the Calendar section on the web, or call Member Services at (602) 240-2000 in the Phoenix area, at (520) 239-3100 in the Tucson area, or toll-free at (800) 621-3778.

Also revised and on-line is an updated ASRS *Member Handbook*, filled with information important to active, inactive and retired members. You can find both publications off our homepage at www.asrs.state.az.us.

At this time, the ASRS has not ordered a printing of hard copies of the handbooks. We are in the process of reviewing our printed materials and will be creating a new packet that will be available for employers to provide to new employees in the future.

New calculation method for service purchase begins August 25

Under legislation passed during the last session, which goes into effect Aug. 25, 2004, the Arizona State Retirement System will begin to use the Actuarial Present Value method to calculate costs of providing future benefits.

Actuarial Present Value is defined as the value of a benefit in terms of the amount of money the ASRS must have on hand today to pay for the benefit in the future, provided all actuarial assumptions used by the ASRS are correct.

In applying this calculation method for service purchase costs, the ASRS determines the APV of the member's benefit including the purchased service, and the APV excluding the purchased service. The member pays the difference between these two values, thereby fully funding the additional benefit derived from the service purchase.

Members wishing to learn more about Service Purchase can find a Fact Sheet on our website that outlines the program or may call Member Services at (602) 240-2000 in the Phoenix area, at (520) 239-3100 in the Tucson area, or toll-free at (800) 621-3778.

Board & Committee Meetings

- **ASRS Board of Trustees** – Friday, Sept. 17, 8:30 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10th floor Board Room.
- **External Affairs Review Committee** – Wednesday, Sept. 1, 10 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor conference room.
- **Investment Review Committee** – Tuesday, Sept. 7, 5:30 p.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor conference room.
- **Operations Review Committee** – Thursday, Sept. 23, 10:30 p.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor conference room.

Note: All Board & Committee meetings are open to the public and your attendance is encouraged. Schedules, agendas and minutes of our meetings are posted on our website and are available at our Phoenix and Tucson offices.

ASRS Rules process

The ASRS is in the process of drafting agency rules related to Service Purchase and is seeking public comment. The draft rules can be found on our website at www.asrs.state.az.us. Click on the Legislation & Rules category listed under main categories on our homepage, and scroll down to the rules section.

Two informational meetings for public comment on these draft rules have been scheduled. ASRS members and member employer representatives are invited to attend, where you'll have an opportunity to provide comments and ask questions. They are scheduled for:

- > Monday, August 23, 1:30 p.m. – ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10th floor Board Room.
- > Tuesday, August 24, 10 a.m. – ASRS Tucson office, 7660 E. Broadway Blvd., room 108.

The meetings are not part of the formal rulemaking process, but do offer an opportunity for the ASRS to receive input from those who will be affected by the rules. Additional meetings will be held once the Proposed Rules are filed with the Secretary of State. For comments or questions, contact ASRS rules coordinator Nancy Johnson at nancyj@asrs.state.az.us or phone (602) 308-5172.

Employer Conferences

The Arizona State Retirement System continues with its annual Employer Conferences with final sessions scheduled over the next several weeks. The meetings are for representatives from employer benefits, human resource and payroll departments and individuals who provide administrative support.

All meetings will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will cover such topics as implications of new legislation, including changes to the Service Purchase and Employer Retirement Incentive programs; contribution accounting; security and the internet and automation of ACH payments; military call up; termination pay; Long Term Disability program changes; eligibility requirements; the ASRS retiree health insurance program, including new carrier information; updated forms, and new employer staff training workshop information.

Below is a list of meeting dates and locations. Due to limited space, reservations are required. Please RSVP at least three weeks prior to the meeting date. Include in your RSVP email the employer name, attendee names and titles, phone numbers, date and location. Please send your RSVP to: michellef@asrs.state.az.us, or call (602) 308-5107 for more information.

2004 ASRS Employer Conference Schedule

Phoenix – September 9 (full), September 23 - ASRS Office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10th floor.

Tucson – September 22 - ASRS Office, 7660 E. Broadway Blvd. Suite 101.

Globe – August 30 - Gila County Board of Supervisors Room, 1400 E. Ash St.

Sierra Vista – August 31- Police Dept, 911 N Coronado Drive.

Safford – September 1 - Graham County Board of Supervisors Room, 921 Thatcher Blvd.

Prescott/Chino Valley – September 14 - Yavapai College, Performance Hall Green Room, 1100 E. Sheldon.

Kingman – September 15 - Kingman School District Conference Room, 3033 MacDonald Ave.

Yuma – September 16 - City of Yuma Conference Room 190, One City Plaza.

2004 ASRS Employer Relations 101 Workshop Fall Schedule

The ASRS Employer's Relations program will be hosting a 4 hour ER 101 workshop held in **Phoenix** on **October 6 and 27, and November 10, 2004** from 8:30-12:30 at the ASRS offices at 3300 N. Central, 10th Conference Room. The workshop will assist employers in training their new staff members in Human Resources, Benefits and Payroll positions about their responsibilities in regards to retirement. Please email your RSVP to: michellef@asrs.state.az.us with your name, title, date of choice and employer name or call (602) 308-5107 for more information. Or outside Phoenix 1-800-621-3778 ext. 5107.

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